VALIANT

SEP NO. 16

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EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

VALIANT VOICE™

CHAOS EFFECT ROCKS EARTH!

•*Special Edition!*

•*Full Coverage Starts on Page 1*

★★★★ VALIANT® VOICE™ ★★★★
VOLUME NUMBER ONE, ISSUE NUMBER SIXTEEN

BIZARRE PHENOMENON PLUNGES WORLD INTO CHAOS!

ELECTRICAL FREEZE CAUSES GLOBAL BLACKOUT

MILLIONS KILLED

Emergency medical procedures are brought to a standstill, as back-up generators fail.

Mass confusion as cars stop dead in their tracks, leaving thousands stranded in midtown.

All 238 passengers perish, as a jetliner explodes after crashing into a Newark Int'l airport tower.

Manhattan is eclipsed in darkness as bolts of unexplained energies flash across the sky.

In what is rapidly becoming the most devastating catastrophe in human history, a bizarre atmospheric energy phenomenon has triggered a worldwide blackout and unleashed Mother Nature's full wrath. Dubbed the "Chaos Effect" by European wire services, the towering cloud bank struck the east coast of the United States with hurricane force at 11:45 PM last night.

Helicopters and jetliners plummeted from the sky. Vehicles careened into walls and through guard rails on expressways. Major hospitals have lost power in the midst of emergency procedures. Around the world, the dead or injured are already estimated to be in the millions.

The air speed of the squall line, according to *Valiant Voice* weather experts, indicates that the Chaos Effect is traveling at speeds faster than any atmospheric phenomena ever recorded. With a possible source conjectured to be somewhere in Asia, local meteorologists project that by the dawn of Summer Solstice, June 21, 1994, the entire planet will be engulfed.

At press time, there has been no definitive word on the cause of the Chaos Effect. However, facts, theories and projections continue mounting. This late-breaking edition of the *Voice* will endeavor to give you up-to-the-minute facts on the following:

- **Whether there is any link between the Chaos Effect and dozens of reported UFO sightings in recent days.**
- **An emergency meeting between the President of the United States and the National Security Council.**
- **How the calamity is affecting London, England and other cities throughout the world.**
- **Clues to the origin of the disaster, in the form of letters and interviews acquired by the *Valiant Voice*.**

Due to the incredible danger in traveling out of doors, civilians are strongly warned to stay in their homes, turn off all gas mains, and keep radios and televisions turned on in the event electricity is restored. Martial law has been declared across the nation, and a 24-hour curfew is currently in effect.

PRESIDENT CLINTON, NSC ADVISORS BAFFLED
Ominous Top Secret Transcript Leaked to Press

The following excerpts are from a special emergency meeting of the National Security Council convened by President Bill Clinton as the Chaos Effect approached the Western Hemisphere. In attendance at the President's Emergency Command Post in Washington D.C. were the Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Also in attendance were members of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and select Congressional leaders. The transcript is reputed to be verbatim, and came into the Voice offices through reliable sources.

President Clinton: What the hell is going on out there? General Shalikashvili?

General Shalikashvili (Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff): We're not quite sure, Mister President. At approximately 10:45 PM Eastern Standard Time, one of our reconnaissance satellites detected a black cloud of unknown origin forming over the Himalayas, in an area our maps have listed as Ladakh.

Clinton: Please continue.

Shalikashvili: As you can see in this series of satellite photos, sir, the cloud began to expand geometrically in all directions at an incredible speed. We have now calculated that it is traveling at a rate in excess of Mach Three.

At 11:15 PM, a short transmission was sent from Admiral Reynolds, Commander Carrier Battle Group 73, to Admiral Ferguson, Commander Seventh Fleet at Yokosuka (Japan). The battle group was conducting maneuvers in the Indian Ocean when the cloud passed over them. Their last transmission reported that everything had suddenly gone black and every ship in the group was losing power. That was the last we heard from them.

Continued on page 7

VALIANT.

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ELISE MAE & SCOTT FRIEDLANDER
Valiant Voice Art Directors

Contributing writers to this special issue:
Jeffrey Gomez, Darren Sanchez, Tony Bedard
CL James Perham, Robin Klein

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"CHAOS EFFECT" WREAKS HAVOC IN EUROPE

Special to the Valiant Voice

LONDON, ENGLAND (UPI) — Pandemonium has been unleashed on the streets of London as the destructive atmospheric force known as the "Chaos Effect" sweeps across the city. With a whistling sound in the skies over Heathrow Airport, British Airways flight 316, an L-1011 jetliner bound for London from Munich, and carrying ninety-seven passengers, suddenly lost power 12,000 feet over the capitol. Miraculously pilot and crew were able to bring the plane to its fiery end on the runways of Heathrow, sparing thousands huddled in surrounding residential neighborhoods. Rescue attempts by airport authorities were being hampered by blizzard-like weather conditions, when communications halted completely.

Hostage Situation at Tower Interrupted

A tense standoff between Scotland Yard and thieves armed with powerful military-style weaponry at the Tower of London was in process when the Chaos Effect storm front rolled across the Thames. Reports that a brand new armored tactical unit was preparing to put a violent end to the futile robbery attempt, that has since developed into a hostage situation, are unconfirmed. Eyewitness accounts of the crisis indicate the Yard's newest "secret weapons" were wearing electronically-enhanced defensive armor. However, this armor would have shut down just as the Chaos Effect struck. Further investigation has been hampered by the selfsame Chaos Effect.

Orb, Comsat, Omen Locked Tight Against Chaos

American-owned Orb Industries, Comsat Corporation and Omen Enterprises, all predominantly American-owned, had filed emergency reports over the United Press International wire services before experiencing system-wide blackouts in the wake of the Chaos Effect. Final words from all three companies were both similar and foreboding.

"On behalf of Dr. Augustus Silk," related a spokesperson for Comsat, London, "we wish to inform our corporate headquarters that we are prepared for the impending crisis. We are alerting our personnel, and preparing our security systems to default lock-down in the event of a power failure."

Although Orb Industries President Aric Davis was not available for comment, the corporation's tracking systems provided early warning to wire services and the United States government, making reports such as this possible.

Omen Enterprises, an international conglomerate, performed in a like manner, warning affiliates in Japan, Australia, and South Africa of the impending cataclysm. Sigmund Heydrich, Director of Omen's New Mexico offices, offered some small degree of hope amidst frenzied communications with overseas offices. "We are in control," stated Heydrich. "We anticipate a complete analysis of the Chaos Effect within forty-eight hours. We have resources that will not be affected by this phenomenon."

The reason for Director Heydrich's seemingly overconfident statement has yet to be determined.

Strange Sightings on London Streets

In the brief moments before Europe was thrown into a continent-wide blackout, reports of unexplained phenomena and supernatural occurrences flooded international computer networks. Ghosts, UFO's, the walking dead, and roving tendrils of "necromantic" energy are all said to have been sighted on the streets of London, Paris, Rome, Barcelona, and other western European cities. The most spectacular accounts submitted prior to the London power-outage report a confrontation between a pale-skinned and well-armed mercenary, and a monstrous humanoid said to be a cross between "Bigfoot" and a "glowing phantasm." The fierce and destructive battle was last spotted heading for the Tower of London, itself a crisis flashpoint. Amidst mounting panic, there is no reported explanation for these so-called supernatural phenomena.

[Above] Color photograph, via UPI computer enhanced imaging, of mercenary known as "Bloodshot" approaching the Tower of London during the start of the Chaos Effect. Note figures in background, said to be Scotland Yard's "secret weapons" mounting their assault against high-tech thieves. Photo lends credence to several reports of bizarre activity on London streets just before the blackout.

MONK WRITES OF PARANORMAL PHENOMENON IN TIBET

In lieu of the regular Valiant Voice column, "Voice Mail," we are featuring this remarkable letter, which was telexed from Ladakh, Tibet to New York City earlier today. Hard copy of this letter was brought to the Voice offices by Tibetan native Numptse Mingala, who swears to its veracity. Though much of it reads as bizarre or hallucinatory, the editors have chosen to run it uncut, and leave it to the reader to decide.

Chan Mingala, a Tibetan Monk who worships at a Ladakh temple. Self-proclaimed eyewitness to the origin of the Chaos Effect.

Actual computer-enhanced telex photograph of aerial phenomenon over Ladakh monastery said to be the source of worldwide electromagnetic disturbance.

Letter From Ladakh: The Heart of Chaos

June 21, 1994
Ladakh, Tibet

My Dear Brother Numptse,

I write this to you on the most terrifying day of my life, with no idea of whether I will live to hear a response. Nevertheless, I pray that you will live to receive this—that you will not be in an airplane or elevator when this chaos wave strikes. And I pray that this letter helps us both to make sense of the carnage that is in the process of plunging the world into darkness this morning.

I was there, working in the temple garden, when it happened. For a moment, a sound almost too high-pitched to hear filled the air. Then, a brilliant ring of light appeared roughly two hundred meters from the main temple. Like the maw of a dragon, it opened wide with a shriek that I later learned was the sound of time itself being ripped! As soon as it opened, the portal disgorged a man into our midst. He fell to the earth, a limp, broken wreck. And following close behind him, came a wave of...how can I describe it...evil, that washed across us all like a fetid wind from the dragon's jaws!

I was among those monks who rushed out to meet the stranger from the portal. Though apparently mortally wounded, the stranger somehow clung to life. We brought him inside and tended to his injuries, but he lapsed into unconsciousness before we could learn more about him and the unnerving gateway that still hung in the sky. Immediately, I summoned the enigmatic "Visitor" who has recently been studying with us. In short order, the Visitor gleaned the stranger's secrets.

It seems that the man who fell from the eerie portal is named Ivar. Furthermore, this Ivar is accustomed to traveling through time! In his travels, Ivar had arrived at a point in history when human affairs were ruled by necromancy—the same arcane force that empowers our deadly enemy, Master Darque. To think that people would actually embrace this power based on death energy! I can only hope that I will transcend the wheel of karma and reincarnation before such dark times prevail. In any case, Ivar was the sole survivor of a necromantic cataclysm that had wiped out the denizens of this cursed era. Seeking to escape the carnage, Ivar fled through a portal called a "Time-arc". However, the lingering death energy of the entire population energetically followed Ivar through the time-arc which brought him here. Now, that same vast source of necromantic energy keeps the portal open, spilling into our time. It is this energy that has caused the global catastrophes we are now experiencing.

Soon after Ivar's arrival, we received three more guests. One of them, named Archer, was already known to us. A former student at this very monastery, Archer is well-remembered for his purity of spirit and amazing martial abilities. Archer's companion, Armstrong, is a huge bear of a man. As it happens, Armstrong is also the brother of Ivar the Time-walker. The third of our western guests is a young man named Geoff, whom Master Tenzing referred to as a Geomancer. I have never met someone so in tune with Tao. Truly, this Geomancer is a holy man on the order of the Dalai Lama himself!

In a short while, Geoff, Archer and Armstrong will attempt to somehow close the portal. I must go now and attend a prayer ceremony to bless these three courageous men in their effort.

Three months ago, when I first came to Ladakh to study, I thought I would find inner peace. Now I wish I had stayed with you and Mother. At least then we could face death together in a world so tightly gripped by this evil wind. But I pray that, no matter what happens, we will one day rise above this veil of tears and ascend to Nirvana to join the Buddha and the Bodisattvas.

Your Humble and Loving Brother,
Chan

Numptse Mingala informed Voice editors that shortly after receipt of this message, his telex machine failed. At press time, Chan's fate is unknown.

TRACKING IN

On June 21,1994 at 9:40 a.m., a corrupted ti
over Ladakh, Tibet, flinging Timewalker into t
ravaged distant future. Like a broken dam, the ti
widened instead of snapping shut, unleashing th
billions of dying people. *The Chaos Effect* had b

What follows will be a wave of destruction
ever experienced. Twenty minutes later, Eu

THE CHAOS EFFECT

CANADA
Freezing temperatures plunge to -100 degrees below zero in areas of Ontario and Quebec.

AMERICAN SOUTHWEST, 9:55 PM PDT
Turok, Dinosaur Hunter must face an evil shaman who now wields the dialgue force.

BOLIVAR, MISSOURI, 10:24 PM CST
Toyo Harada loses contact with X-O Manowar and H.A.R.D. Corps during their outer space mission against the Spider Aliens.

SUPERTWIN, CALIFORNIA, 6:45 PM PST
Solar, Man of the Atom, awakens to find himself merged with his own bed. He sends a call for help into the future.

NEW ORLEANS, 10:42 PM CST
Shadowman, Master Darque, and Sandria Darque infused with vast amounts of necromantic power.

OHIO, 11:50 PM EST
On the road, the Harbinger team confronts Dr. Eclipse, now wielding god like abilities.

NEW YORK CITY, 12:18 AM EST
Sandria Darque accesses before Geoff the Geomancer to take him to Archer & Armstrong.

MIAMI, FLORIDA, 11:36 PM EST
Dr. Mirage and Carmen experience the Chaos Effect and launch their investigation.

NEW MEXICO, 6:20 91 4:57 AM MST
Two space shuttles containing Armorines and H.A.R.D. Corps squads are launched by Orion Enterprises against the Spider Aliens.

SOUTH AMERICA
Earthquakes rock several South American nations.

VALIA

INTERNATIONAL CATACLYSM

ted time arc opened in the sky nto the present from a war– the time arc portal locked and ing the necromantic energy of had begun.

ction unlike any the Earth has , Europe will be immersed.

Then, in less than half an hour, the Chaos wave will roll across the Atlantic to plunge the United States into darkness. In under one hundred minutes, the entire planet will be completely engulfed in an evil globe of darque energy. From outer space, the corona over the earth's event horizon will actually appear to have a self-replicating fractal signature—a clue, perhaps, to the mystery of this epoch's greatest cataclysm.

POSITION: L5, BETWEEN EARTH AND THE MOON, 8:37 PM PST
Armorines and H.A.R.D. Corps teams, joined by X-O Manowar, close in on the amassing Spider Alien armada. When the Chaos Effect carries all communications with Sphere and Orion instant, the teams are left to fend for themselves.
NORTH PACIFIC
Enormous tsunami sighted heading toward east coast of Japan.
CHINA
Dozens of tornadoes rake China's southern provinces.
ENGLAND: 3:19 AM GMT
Ninjak faces a supercharged Undame foe when his mission is plunged into Chaos.
LONDON, ENGLAND: 3:22 AM GMT
Bloodshot's memory blanks during Chaos Effect retrieval attempts. The Immortal Enemy rises to face him.
LONDON, ENGLAND: 3:27 AM GMT
While facing a hostage crisis, the Secret Weapons' armor shuts down and supernatural evil appears.
LONDON, ENGLAND: 3:46 AM GMT
The Eternal Warrior contends with the crash of a jetliner, as Heathrow Airport falls under siege.
LADAKH, TIBET: 9:49 AM
Timewalker is flung from the Chaos Effect portal. Necromantic energy floods the world.
LADAKH, TIBET: 1:12 PM
Archer & Armstrong, Geoff, and Sandria arrive at the base of the Temple Mountain.
AFRICA
Blizzards and hail storms devastate central and southern Africa.
AUSTRALIA
Sydney, Australia engulfed in blizzard as a result of strange electromagnetic explosive phenomena.

Special Correspondent Bob Hall Interviews "Necromantic" Who Predicts Humanity's Fate

Throughout the night, Issue staffers have been sifting through this past month's article files, as well as Associated Press and United Press International teletype printouts, looking for clues to the possible origins of the "Chaos Effect". This fascinating interview between world-renowned expert on matters of antiquity and esoterica, Bob Hall, and the self-styled "necromantic" who calls himself Master Darque, seems to provide yet another piece to this bizarre puzzle. A tattooed eccentric and colorful resident of New Orleans, Louisiana, Darque has become notorious in southern tabloid news. His comments to Hall (dated *May 18, 1993*) are uncannily prophetic.

New Orleans (Allied Wire Service) — My stomach is doing a tap dance as I approach a gloomy, Charles Addams mansion. Well-paid but predictably unreliable informants have suggested this as the current sanctuary of Master Darque.

I knock. I wait. And then the ground yawns beneath my feet! I careen down an unlit tunnel and land on something congealed and malodorous.

Hall: Oh! Yuck! I'm too damned old for this!

Darque: Too old, Mr. Hall? Your age is as a child compared to mine.

A cavernous room is illuminated with a single spark of fire, created by the Master. It's him, no doubt—blue-white skin, red eyes. Tattoos glowing like neon.

Hall: Uh...

Darque: Quiet! It should be sufficient that I have cut short you for the trivial manner in which you and Robert Layton chronicle my legend. Why do you tempt me by coming here?

Hall: Chaos! We got this letter, see? *(I show him a note, scrawled in blood, on a piece of parchment. "CHAOS COMING! WARN THE PEOPLE! GO TO DARQUE!")* It was signed by—

(The letter flies from my fingers and floats before Darque.)

Darque: Signed with the seal of the Shadowman—my enemy!

Hall: I didn't mean to...

Darque: Do you know the nature of necromantic energy?

Hall: No, that is, I...it sounds real bad...

Darque: I'll demonstrate.

(A light shines from Darque's forehead and I feel life begin to drain from my body. My hands wither and wrinkle into talons. My voice crumbles, my sight begins to fail, and I breath in labored gasps.)

Darque: Now, Mr. Hall, learn the true meaning of "old" as I drain you of the necromantic energy which you would call your soul.

Hall: Stop it...please—I'm dying!

Darque: Precisely. You experience the fate of mankind. I want you to go forth and describe your fear. Teach humanity to die with terror in its heart: trembling like a wounded creature caught in the headlights of a necromantic Mack truck. I'll find it almost...delicious.

Hall: Death...mankind? Then this—

Darque: —is the end of your world, and the beginning of mine. My sister and I have walked the "path of knowing" to prophecy the future, and that future belongs to me! Raw necromantic energy will pour into the universe from the end of time—shutting down mankind's pathetic machines, pulsating senseless souls with utter dread, endowing mine with ultimate power!

Hall: You'll be—

Darque: —a god!

Hall: Uh...but if we all die, what's the good of being a god? If—

Darque: You pathetic, deluded hack! Do you really suggest I should save the world merely that I might have subjects to rule? No, Mr. Hall, that is the banal foolery of pulp Fiction!

Hall: (my voice cracks) Then it's hopeless...

Sandrine: No! There's nothing hopeless, but believing such things makes them so.

(A woman has materialized who, by all appearances, must be Darque's sister, although I can barely see through my clouded, aging eyes. She claps her hands and then the room begins to darken.)

Sandrine: Go now, Mr. Hall! You have heard enough! Go!

(The room is gone. Only voices remain.)

Darque: Remember what I told you. Spread the fear of Chaos through all the world. Begone!

(I feel I must be dying as the world fades to black.)

Sometime later, I wake up in a cemetery next to Darque's house. (Which now appears deserted.) I make my way back to the hotel on legs which have been restored to health, but still tremble with fear. I have transcribed everything just as I remember. It may have all been merely a nightmare. But, perhaps it was the look in that beautiful, haunted woman's forlorn and haunted face that convinced me—heaven help us—the end of the world may well be at hand.

NY Mets Blacked Out

The New York Mets and Atlanta Braves were tied 2-2 at the bottom of the eleventh inning when the Chaos Effect plunged Shea Stadium into complete darkness at 11:45 PM last night. Bedlam ensued as jet planes making final approaches to neighboring LaGuardia Airport literally dropped from the sky, crashing into Flushing Meadows-Corona Park and forcing thousands of baseball fans to take refuge inside the stadium. Suffice to say, the game was suspended with no word, as of yet, on a make-up date. The fate of the Yankees, who were on the road last night, is unknown.

SHUTTLE LAUNCHES AND UFO SIGHTINGS: A CONNECTION TO CHAOS?

Ever since this mysterious darkness has enveloped us, speculation has been rampant as to what may have caused it. Rumors of Armageddon and even alien invasion have been spreading like wildfire, stirring an already frightened populace into an even greater state of panic. Considering that all modern forms of communication have ceased indefinitely, the actual source of this disaster may never be known. It can only be assumed, based on expert local assessment and telexes received by the *Voice* offices in the final moments before the event, that this catastrophe is indeed worldwide.

Using every remaining resource available, including evidence accumulated beforehand, the *Voice* staff has raised the current theory as to what is producing this destruction, now known as the "Chaos Effect". While admittedly there are other more extraordinary explanations, the theory stated here is both logical and possible.

Before dawn yesterday, June 20, 1994, reports flooded in over the wire of two space-shuttle launchings out of southwestern New Mexico approximately one hour apart. These launches were sighted by hundreds of onlookers as they rocketed into the early morning sky. No space launches were scheduled by NASA, although reliable sources have indicated that both United States Marine Corps personnel and equipment had been spotted in the area in the days preceding the launches. Additionally, Omen Enterprises, a private corporate conglomerate capable of launching satellites and space shuttles, owns vast tracts of property in the New Mexican desert.

These launches just happen to have coincided with a sharp, sudden rise in U.F.O. sightings across North America. Similar stories of pod-like alien spacecraft rising "out of nowhere" and darting off into the sky have been pouring into wire services for the past week. In what may be a related story, photos taken from the Mauna Kea Observatory in Hawaii clearly depict a concentration of unidentifiable objects streaming just outside of Earth's atmosphere.

These factors, along with some especially fascinating information acquired by the *Voice* at press time (see related story below) lend some credibility to the rumors of alien invasion. If this is the case, the "Chaos Effect" could be the result of the triggering of a devastating weapon from space. The fallout from this possibly alien explosion may have proven to be far more deadly than anything we could have imagined.

Once again, we here at the *Valiant Voice* must stress that this is merely conjecture. The true cause of this may never be known.

Clinton cont'd from page 1

Vice President Gore: Isn't there a *nuclear-powered carrier in that battle group?*

Secretary Perry (Defense Dept.): Yes, Mister Vice President...the Forrestal, I believe.

Gore: Then how could they have lost power?

Perry: (shaking his head) I don't know, sir.

Clinton: Could the Russians be behind this?

Director Woolsey (Central Intelligence Agency): Not likely, Mister President. Before we lost contact with our listening post in Turkey, they reported a lot of emergency radio traffic between Russian military units...the Russians sounded scared.

Lake (National Security Advisor): Could this be an attempt to disrupt Operation Black Flag?

Rep. Foley (Speaker of the House): Operation Black Flag?

Clinton: Uh...It's nothing, Tom...we were just thinking of having the White House fumigated. You were saying, General?

Shalikashvilli: At 11:27 PM, approximately two minutes ago, we monitored a distress call from one of our ballistic missile submarines, *U.S.S. Michigan*. She was losing power and going down in deep water about 120 miles due north of Guam. All attempts are being made to render assistance. Communications are just not getting through.

Perry: The *Michigan* was submerged at the time she was affected. Even being 300 feet below the surface couldn't protect her from that damnable energy drain.

Secretary Christopher (State Dept.): Mister President, I was on the phone talking with Prime Minister Major when the cloud reached London. Instead of the sun rising as usual, everything began to get darker. His voice got fainter and started to break up...then there was nothing. That was shortly before we overheard, about 11:10 PM.

Shalikashvilli: At 10:57 PM, all military installations were put on full alert...unfortunately, this gave several of our bases the time to get their aircraft into the air. The order to recall all aircraft was given at 11:03 PM, but...

Clinton: How bad?

Shalikashvilli: Both the First and Eighth Air Forces and the Strategic Bomber wing out of Loring Air Force Base didn't make it back. Loring's the last we...

Clinton: Dear God...

Shalikashvilli: At 11:15 PM, the cloud was sighted by Trans-Global Airlines Flight 519 about 625 miles east of New York City. The pilot couldn't outrun it, so he ordered that he was going to try to fly above the cloud.

Clinton: Did they make it?

Shalikashvilli: I'm afraid not, sir. The cloud is projected to reach the East Coast in approximately fifteen minutes, knocking out all power to the Eastern Seaboard. Although we cannot be sure because of the blackout, the western squall line of the cloud should meet its eastern counterpart about a hundred miles west of Denver.

Gore: Now...now that we know all the details, do we have any idea what's causing this?

Doctor Hirotaka (Office of Science and Technology Policy): We do have a theory, sir...but it's only in the preliminary stages. We haven't had a chance to test it, of course.

Clinton: We understand, doctor.

Hirotaka: We believe this strange phenomena originates with our own nearest star...the Sun. We now know that the Sun is the engine which drives the Earth's weather. We also know that sunspots can cause disruptions in radio waves and other forms of electromagnetic energy.

What we feel is happening is a new type of sunspot...I hesitate to use the term...a superspot...is forming on the surface of the Sun. That might explain some of the events that are occurring.

Clinton: Is there anything we can do to stop it?

Hirotaka: Probably not. We might be able to find some sort of shielding to minimize the effects, but that would take years of development...even if we had the power to conduct the necessary experiments.

Clinton: Years!! Just how long do you think this blackout will last?

Hirotaka: Who can say? Sunspots usually run in twenty-two year cycles.

Clinton: Twenty-two...aren't there any other possibilities?

Hirotaka: That depends, Mister President...

Clinton: What do you mean?

Hirotaka: Are you a very religious man?

Clinton: That's not very funny.

Hirotaka: I wasn't joking.

Editor's note: All power to the President's Emergency Command Center went down at 11:41 PM Eastern Standard Time. At press time, there has been no further word on the condition of the President, or the status of the United States federal government.

THE VOICE COMES THROUGH

We at the *Valiant Voice* made a promise to give you, our readers, the news as it happens. Today is no exception.

We are in the midst of a global emergency. The very laws of nature have been repealed. Outside, temperatures have reached ninety and one hundred degrees, and yet the city is buried in ice and snow under blizzard-like conditions. While most of us slept, electronic communications ceased everywhere. However, it is important that we, as a people, stay informed and in touch with each other in the midst of this crisis, and the keystone role of the press must not be ignored.

Ordinarily, putting out a newspaper is not a newsworthy event. Yet, in light of the circumstances, we thought we'd explain to you how this issue was "put to bed" in spite of our computers, teletypes, faxes, and telephones being down, and our presses being completely inoperable.

Soon after the blackout hit, staff members scrambled to the old archives to retrieve, from under a pile of rockballs, an ancient manual printing press. We also retrieved boxes of mechanical type, tiny letters which were once hand-set into blocks and carefully placed onto the presses. Our staff worked remarkably quickly, ferreting out almost all the boxes of type from the depths of the storage rooms. One document lacked particularly bleak, however, when we could not locate a single box of letter E's. A search was initiated and people were getting a bit tense until, luckily, they were located. The press was set by candlelight.

Kudos must go to our inventive photo editor, who somehow managed to acquire the needed chemicals to simulate once-archaic development techniques. Our photo staff spent the evening in this makeshift darkroom, covering metal plates with light sensitive emulsion. The plates were exposed by lantern light, no less! Our photo editors spent the rest of the night dipping the plates into acid baths. Combining editors spent the rest of the night dipping the plates into acid baths. Combining editors spent the rest of the night dipping the plates into acid baths. Combining

COMING THIS JUNE

THE CHAOS EFFECT—ICE PRIS
By Layman, Chang, Ordway, and Crenshaw
Cover by Jusko and Ordway
First Announced Appearance: The Undead
Free Comic Book/Day Card
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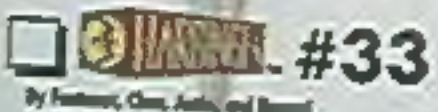

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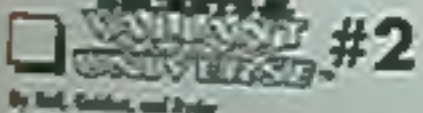

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COURTESY OF:

Next Issue:
The results of The Chaos Effect will have far-future consequences! Join us as we celebrate our veterans, and more our future. Preview Unlimited, a look at the new Generation, as well as some hints at the post-Chaos lives of Magnus Robot Fighter.

See you in Infinity Days...